United Nations S/2014/691

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 September 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 20 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 20 September 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamad Ali **Alhakim**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

I should like to reaffirm the substance of the letter dated 25 June 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council (S/2014/440, annex), in which the international community was requested to support the effort to eradicate the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and restore stability to our country.

On 15 September 2014, at the Paris conference, the international community attested to the fact that ISIL represents a threat to Iraq. We welcome the commitment that was made by 26 States to provide the new Iraqi Government with all necessary support in its war against ISIL, including appropriate military assistance through the provision of air cover in coordination with the Iraqi armed forces and in accordance with international law, without endangering the safety of civilians, ensuring that populated areas are not struck and respecting Iraq's sovereignty.

Iraq is grateful for the military assistance it is receiving, including the assistance provided by the United States of America in response to Iraq's specific requests. Iraq and the United States have entered into a Strategic Framework Agreement, and that Agreement will help to make such assistance more effective and enable us to make great advances in our war against ISIL. Although Iraq is in great need of the assistance of its friends in combatting this evil terrorism, it nonetheless attaches great importance to preserving its sovereignty and its ability to take decisions independently, both of which must be honoured in all circumstances.

As we noted in our earlier letter, ISIL has established a safe haven outside Iraq's borders that is a direct threat to the security of our people and territory. By establishing this safe haven, ISIL has secured for itself the ability to train for, plan, finance and carry out terrorist operations across our borders. The presence of this safe haven has made our borders impossible to defend and exposed our citizens to the threat of terrorist attacks.

It is for these reasons that we, in accordance with international law and the relevant bilateral and multilateral agreements, and with due regard for complete national sovereignty and the Constitution, have requested the United States of America to lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds, with our express consent. The aim of such strikes is to end the constant threat to Iraq, protect Iraq's citizens and, ultimately, arm Iraqi forces and enable them to regain control of Iraq's borders.

We are grateful for the international community's support and believe that the provision of additional assistance for the specific purpose of targeting ISIL will further help the Iraqi people and the security forces to turn the tide in the struggle against the terrorists, and thereby restore security and stability in our territory. Doing so will benefit the region and the entire world, from which ISIL must be completely eradicated.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim al-Ushayqir **al-Ja'fari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq